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News Release

national machine tool builders association

FOR RELEASE: November 30, 1987
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MACHINE TOOL ORDERS UP IN OCTOBER

October net new machine tool orders are up 46.2% compared to September. The $267.30 million figure reflects a 57.1% rise in metal cutting orders to $198.15 million and a 21.9% rise in metal forming orders to $69.15 million for the month.

Compared to October a year ago, orders are up 48.4%, with a 51.4% improvement in metal cutting and a 40.3% improvement in metal forming machine orders.

Machine tools orders for the first 10 months of 1987 stand at $1,740.00 million, 6.3% below the $1,856.15 million for the same period in 1986. Metal cutting equipment orders for 1987 are 13.5% below the figure for a year ago, while those for metal forming equipment are up 14.2% for the same period.

James A. Gray, president of the National Machine Tool Builders' Association, said, "It is good to see the October order figures, which are the highest of the year. The improvement over the same period a year ago is especially encouraging. However, two months do not make a recovery. It will require several more months of $250-million-plus orders to set an industry trend -- both orders and shipments for the year so far are below last year's levels.

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"There has been growth in export orders -- although they were not up in October -- and that is encouraging. The growth reflects the more realistic exchange rates that currently prevail. Given an equal chance, American machine tool manufacturers can compete! U.S. producers have always been innovative and technically up to date. Now we can once again offer our products at a competitive price."

October machine tool shipments were up 4.5% compared to September, rising from $200.45 million to $209.55 million. Shipments of metal cutting machine tools fell 5.8% to $134.75 million, while shipments of metal forming equipment rose 30.4% to $74.80 million.

Compared to October a year ago, total shipments were off 13.7% with metal cutting shipments down 26.6% and metal forming shipments up 26.1%. The year-to-date shipment total stands at $1,857.10 million, a 13.2% drop compared to the same period a year ago. This figure represents a 15.0% drop in metal cutting shipments and an 8.4% drop in metal forming shipments for the period.

Machine tool backlogs for October 1987 rose to $1,087.25 million, up from $1,029.50 million in September.

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COMPARISON CHART

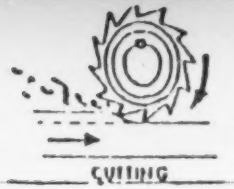
NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
OCT 1987	187.15	11.00	198.15	59.45	9.70	69.15	246.60	20.70	267.30
SEP 1987	116.75	9.35	126.10	40.35	16.40	56.75	157.10	25.75	182.85
% CHANGE									
OCT 1987:SEP 1987	+60.3	+17.6	+57.1	+47.3	-40.9	+21.9	+57.0	-19.6	+46.2
OCT 1986	114.95	15.90	130.85	44.45	4.85	49.30	159.40	20.75	180.15
% CHANGE									
OCT 1987:OCT 1986	+62.8	-30.8	+51.4	+33.7	+100.0	+40.3	+54.7	-0.2	+48.4
YEAR TO DATE 1987	1,073.90	114.20	1,188.10	444.95	106.95	551.90	1,518.85	221.15	1,740.00
YEAR TO DATE 1986	1,226.65	146.40	1,373.05	427.45	55.65	483.10	1,654.10	202.05	1,856.15
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-12.5	-22.0	-13.5	+4.1	+92.2	+14.2	-8.2	+9.5	-6.3

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
OCT 1987	117.90	16.85	134.75	63.25	11.55	74.80	181.15	28.40	209.55
SEP 1987	126.65	16.45	143.10	48.00	9.35	57.35	174.65	25.80	200.45
% CHANGE									
OCT 1987:SEP 1987	-6.9	+2.4	-5.8	+31.8	+23.5	+30.4	+3.7	+10.1	+4.5
OCT 1986	170.40	13.10	183.50	52.40	6.90	59.30	222.80	20.00	242.80
% CHANGE									
OCT 1987:OCT 1986	-30.8	+28.6	-26.6	+20.7	+67.4	+26.1	-18.7	+42.0	-13.7
YEAR TO DATE 1987	1,179.70	144.55	1,324.25	455.45	77.40	532.85	1,635.15	221.95	1,857.10
YEAR TO DATE 1986	1,391.20	167.30	1,558.50	533.45	48.50	581.95	1,924.65	215.80	2,140.45
% CHANGE									
1987 : 1986	-15.2	-13.6	-15.0	-14.6	+59.6	-8.4	-15.0	+2.8	-13.2

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association



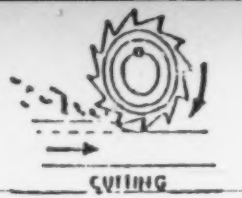
TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,883.35	$ 241.95	$ 2,125.30	1,204.35	$ 2,306.05	$ 272.45	$ 2,578.50
1987							
JAN	$ 118.55	$ 28.10	$ 146.65	1,203.30	$ 135.35	$ 12.35	$ 147.70
FEB	$ 141.45	$ 11.40	$ 152.85	1,209.55	$ 131.45	$ 15.15	$ 146.60
MAR	$ 136.25	$ 27.95	$ 164.20	1,191.25	$ 154.05	$ 28.45	$ 182.50
APR	$ 110.15	$ 20.15	$ 130.30	1,149.20	$ 150.15	$ 22.20	$ 172.35
MAY	$ 176.10	$ 12.00	$ 188.10	1,128.70	$ 189.80	$ 18.80	$ 208.60
JUN	$ 177.30	$ 25.45	$ 202.75	1,098.30	$ 202.85	$ 30.30	$ 233.15
JUL	$ 128.50	$ 34.50	$ 163.00	1,063.50	$ 182.25	$ 15.55	$ 197.80
AUG	$ 126.85	$ 15.15	$ 142.00	1,047.10	$ 133.45	$ 24.95	$ 158.40
SEP	$ 157.10	$ 25.75	$ 182.85	1,029.50	$ 174.65	$ 25.80	$ 200.45
OCT (P)	$ 246.60	$ 20.70	$ 267.30	1,087.25	$ 181.15	$ 28.40	$ 209.55
10 MONTHS	$ 1,518.85	$ 221.15	$ 1,740.00		$ 1,635.15	$ 221.95	$ 1,857.10

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 2,065.20	$ 257.20	$ 2,322.40	$ 181.85	$ 15.25	$ 197.10
1987						
JAN	$ 124.60	$ 28.20	$ 152.80	$ 6.05	$ .10	$ 6.15
FEB	$ 147.45	$ 13.60	$ 161.05	$ 6.00	$ 2.20	$ 8.20
MAR	$ 165.05	$ 30.05	$ 195.10	$ 28.80	$ 2.10	$ 30.90
APR	$ 119.60	$ 21.05	$ 140.65	$ 9.45	$ .90	$ 10.35
MAY	$ 180.40	$ 12.95	$ 193.35	$ 4.30	$ .95	$ 5.25
JUN	$ 182.05	$ 26.10	$ 208.15	$ 4.75	$ .65	$ 5.40
JUL	$ 141.60	$ 34.60	$ 176.20	$ 13.10	$ .10	$ 13.20
AUG	$ 137.10	$ 16.20	$ 153.30	$ 10.25	$ 1.05	$ 11.30
SEP	$ 168.10	$ 29.40	$ 197.50	$ 11.00	$ 3.65	$ 14.65
OCT (P)	$ 252.10	$ 21.75	$ 273.85	$ 5.50	$ 1.05	$ 6.55
10 MONTHS	$ 1,618.05	$ 233.90	$ 1,851.95	$ 99.20	$ 12.75	$ 111.95

P - Preliminary

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.



INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

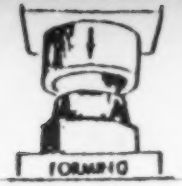
DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,376.55	$ 167.70	$ 1,544.25	897.25	$ 1,684.70	$ 205.60	$ 1,890.30
1987							
JAN	$ 85.65	$ 13.30	$ 98.95	884.95	$ 104.10	$ 7.15	$ 111.25
FEB	$ 98.35	$ 5.35	$ 103.70	889.40	$ 88.80	$ 10.45	$ 99.25
MAR	$ 107.55	$ 15.90	$ 123.45	874.20	$ 118.20	$ 20.45	$ 138.65
APR	$ 65.15	$ 14.40	$ 79.55	837.90	$ 102.10	$ 13.75	$ 115.85
MAY	$ 139.60	$ 5.20	$ 144.80	821.05	$ 146.00	$ 15.65	$ 161.65
JUN	$ 98.85	$ 16.10	$ 114.95	770.90	$ 148.20	$ 16.90	$ 165.10
JUL	$ 84.60	$ 17.50	$ 102.10	736.70	$ 127.90	$ 8.40	$ 136.30
AUG	$ 90.25	$ 6.10	$ 96.35	714.70	$ 99.85	$ 18.50	$ 118.35
SEP	$ 116.75	$ 9.35	$ 126.10	697.70	$ 126.65	$ 16.45	$ 143.10
OCT (P)	$ 187.15	$ 11.00	$ 198.15	761.10	$ 117.90	$ 16.85	$ 134.75
10 MONTHS	$ 1,073.90	$ 114.20	$ 1,188.10		$ 1,179.70	$ 144.55	$ 1,324.25

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 1,498.60	$ 176.35	$ 1,674.95	$ 122.05	$ 8.65	$ 130.70
1987						
JAN	$ 90.30	$ 13.35	$ 103.65	$ 4.65	$ .05	$ 4.70
FEB	$ 101.55	$ 7.50	$ 109.05	$ 3.20	$ 2.15	$ 5.35
MAR	$ 114.00	$ 17.95	$ 131.95	$ 6.45	$ 2.05	$ 8.50
APR	$ 73.35	$ 14.75	$ 88.10	$ 8.20	$ .35	$ 8.55
MAY	$ 143.55	$ 5.60	$ 149.15	$ 3.95	$ .40	$ 4.35
JUN	$ 101.65	$ 16.60	$ 118.25	$ 2.80	$ .50	$ 3.30
JUL	$ 96.40	$ 17.55	$ 113.95	$ 11.80	$ .05	$ 11.85
AUG	$ 94.00	$ 6.55	$ 100.55	$ 3.75	$ .45	$ 4.20
SEP	$ 124.20	$ 12.95	$ 137.15	$ 7.45	$ 3.60	$ 11.05
OCT (P)	$ 189.55	$ 11.20	$ 200.75	$ -2.40	$ .20	$ 2.60
10 MONTHS	$ 1,128.55	$ 124.00	$ 1,252.55	$ 54.65	$ 9.80	$ 64.45

P - Preliminary

NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)



DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 506.80	$ 74.25	$ 581.05	307.10	$ 621.35	$ 66.85	$ 688.20
1987							
JAN	$ 32.90	$ 14.80	$ 47.70	318.35	$ 31.25	$ 5.20	$ 36.45
FEB	$ 43.10	$ 6.05	$ 49.15	320.15	$ 42.65	$ 4.70	$ 47.35
MAR	$ 28.70	$ 12.05	$ 40.75	317.05	$ 35.85	$ 8.00	$ 43.85
APR	$ 45.00	$ 5.75	$ 50.75	311.30	$ 48.05	$ 8.45	$ 56.50
MAY	$ 36.50	$ 6.80	$ 43.30	307.65	$ 43.80	$ 3.15	$ 46.95
JUN	$ 78.45	$ 9.35	$ 87.80	327.40	$ 54.65	$ 13.40	$ 68.05
JUL	$ 43.90	$ 17.00	$ 60.90	326.80	$ 54.35	$ 7.15	$ 61.50
AUG	$ 36.60	$ 9.05	$ 45.65	332.40	$ 33.60	$ 6.45	$ 40.05
SEP	$ 40.35	$ 16.40	$ 56.75	331.80	$ 48.00	$ 9.35	$ 57.35
OCT (P)	$ 59.45	$ 9.70	$ 69.15	326.15	$ 63.25	$ 11.55	$ 74.80
10 MONTHS	$ 444.95	$ 106.95	$ 551.90		$ 455.45	$ 77.40	$ 532.85

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1986	$ 566.60	$ 80.85	$ 647.45	$ 59.80	$ 6.60	$ 66.40
1987						
JAN	$ 34.30	$ 14.85	$ 49.15	$ 1.40	$ .05	$ 1.45
FEB	$ 45.90	$ 6.10	$ 52.00	$ 2.80	$ .05	$ 2.85
MAR	$ 51.05	$ 12.10	$ 63.15	$ 22.35	$ .05	$ 22.40
APR	$ 46.25	$ 6.30	$ 52.55	$ 1.25	$ .55	$ 1.80
MAY	$ 36.85	$ 7.35	$ 44.20	$ .35	$ .55	$ .90
JUN	$ 80.40	$ 9.50	$ 89.90	$ 1.95	$ .15	$ 2.10
JUL	$ 45.20	$ 17.05	$ 62.25	$ 1.30	$ .05	$ 1.35
AUG	$ 43.10	$ 9.65	$ 52.75	$ 6.50	$ .60	$ 7.10
SEP	$ 43.90	$ 16.45	$ 60.35	$ 3.55	$ .05	$ 3.60
OCT (P)	$ 62.55	$ 10.55	$ 73.10	$ 3.10	$ .85	$ 3.95
10 MONTHS	$ 489.50	$ 109.90	$ 599.40	$ 44.55	$ 2.95	$ 47.50

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